

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #36

The purpose of this announcement is to provide an update on the July 11 commercial purse seine fishery in the Eastern and Southeastern districts, and to announce a two day closure for these districts. All other fisheries remain as previously announced.

SEINE FISHERIES: Aerial surveys of the Eastern, Southeastern, Northern, Coghill, Northwestern, and Eshamy districts were flown this week. Final harvest numbers for the July 11 fishery in the Eastern and Southeastern districts are unavailable at the time of this announcement; however, it is estimated that at least 1 million pink salmon were harvested. Cumulative pink salmon harvest totals for the Eastern District through July 10 include approximately 1.5 million cost recovery fish, and 11.9 million CPF fish. CPF pink salmon harvest estimates thus far have been calculated using a processor-generated average of 3.2 pounds per fish. ADF&G sampling of pink salmon harvested in Valdez Arm on July 11 resulted in an average weight of 2.94 pounds per fish. **VFDA reports broodstock collection far less than would be expected for the date, and has requested a two day closure in Port Valdez and Valdez Arm.** Time and area for future commercial fishing periods will be based on consideration for VFDA broodstock collection progress, and wild stock escapement indices. It is anticipated that there will be a broad area opener on Monday, July 15 in the Eastern and Southeastern districts, with time and area to be announced on Sunday, July 14.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will close to commercial fishing at 8:00 pm today, July 12.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will close to commercial fishing at 8:00 pm today, July 12.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm Saturday, July 13.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

Announcement recordings are available for **gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.